



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Summary of Federal Regulations for Taking Gray Wolves in the Eastern Distinct Population Segment April 1, 2003

Gray wolves throughout the Eastern DPS are classified as “threatened” under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). However, different regulations apply to these threatened wolves, depending on the location of the animals within the Eastern DPS. Special regulations for Minnesota wolves have been in effect since 1978. Special regulations for the other Midwestern states took effect on April 1, 2003. There are no specific regulations for gray wolves in states that are east of Ohio, so the normal protections for threatened wildlife apply there (see 50 CFR 17.31).

All wolves killed or injured in the Eastern DPS must be reported to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) or to the appropriate state or tribal conservation agency.

Situation	Special regulations for Minnesota wolves (see 50 CFR 17.40(d))	Special regulations for wolves in other Midwestern states - North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, & Ohio. DO NOT apply to states east of Ohio or to Minnesota (see 50 CFR 17.40(o))	Eastern Distinct Population Segment states that are east of Ohio - Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, & Maine. (see 50 CFR 17.31)
A. In defense of human life	Any person can kill or injure a wolf in defense of his/her life or the life of others	Any person can kill or injure a wolf in defense of his/her life or the life of others	Any person can kill or injure a wolf in defense of his/her life or the life of others
B. Protecting human safety	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) or its designated agents may remove wolves that are a “demonstrable but nonimmediate threat to human life or safety.” (Not specifically included in 50 CFR 17.40(d), but included in Regional endangered species permit.)	Wolves that are a “demonstrable but nonimmediate threat to human life or safety” may be removed by FWS, other federal land management agencies, state or tribal conservation agencies, or designated agents of any of these agencies.	Wolves that are a “demonstrable but nonimmediate threat to human life or safety” may be removed by FWS, other federal land management agencies, state conservation agencies, or designated agents of any of these agencies.

Situation	Special regulations for Minnesota wolves (see 50 CFR 17.40(d))	Special regulations for wolves in other Midwestern states - North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, & Ohio. DO NOT apply to states east of Ohio or to Minnesota (see 50 CFR 17.40(o))	Eastern Distinct Population Segment states that are east of Ohio - Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, & Maine. (see 50 CFR 17.31)
C. Aiding a sick, injured, or orphaned wolf; disposing of a dead wolf; or salvaging for scientific study	May be done by FWS, other federal land management agencies, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), or their agents	May be done by FWS, other federal land management agencies, state or tribal conservation agencies, or their agents	May be done by FWS, other federal land management agencies, state conservation agencies, or their agents
D. Salvaging a dead wolf for traditional cultural purposes by Native American tribes	Not included in 50 CFR 17.40(d), but may be done under permit issued by FWS; see G, below.	May be done by FWS, other federal land management agencies, state or tribal conservation agencies, or their agents	No specific provision under 50 CFR 17.31; may be done under permit issued by FWS; see G, below.
E. Removing wolves attacking lawfully present domestic animals	May be done by FWS and Minnesota DNR, or agents of these agencies	May be done by employees of FWS, state or tribal natural resource management agencies, or their agents	No specific provision under 50 CFR 17.31; may be done under permit issued by FWS; see G, below.
F. Taking wolves for research or conservation programs under ESA section 6 cooperative agreements	Minnesota DNR has full authority for such taking	State conservation agencies which have approved section 6 cooperative agreements with FWS have full authority for such taking	State conservation agencies which have approved section 6 cooperative agreements with FWS have full authority for such taking
G. Other forms of take may be carried out for various purposes under specific FWS permits, as authorized by 50 CFR 17.32	By various parties, if the take is for: C scientific purposes C enhancement of propagation or survival C zoological exhibition C educational purposes C incidental taking (with an HCP) C special purposes consistent with ESA	By various parties, if the take is for: C scientific purposes C enhancement of propagation or survival C zoological exhibition C educational purposes C incidental taking (with an HCP) C special purposes consistent with ESA	By various parties, if the take is for: C scientific purposes C enhancement of propagation or survival C zoological exhibition C educational purposes C incidental taking (with an HCP) C special purposes consistent with ESA